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Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the thirty-second submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of Council resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2191 (2014) and paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2258 (2015), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The information contained herein is based on the data available to United Nations agencies on the ground, from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, other Syrian sources and open sources. Data from United Nations agencies on their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for the period from 1 to 30 September 2016.

Box 1
Key points in September 2016

(1) The 9 September agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation did not hold. More than 300 people in eastern Aleppo were killed in the last week of September, mainly as a result of air strikes. At the same time, more than 80 people were killed in western Aleppo.

(2) On 19 September, a United Nations and Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy delivering humanitarian assistance for 78,000 in Urum al-Kubra (in western rural Aleppo governorate) came under attack, resulting in the deaths of 18 people, including Red Crescent volunteers and staff and drivers.

(3) The number of people besieged in the Syrian Arab Republic has grown from 586,200 to 861,200 owing to the addition to the siege of eastern Aleppo, where an estimated 275,000 people reside.

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(4) The United Nations and health partners received credible reports of 30 attacks against medical facilities in September. Of those, 12 attacks have been confirmed.

(5) Owing to the lack of food, nearly 80 per cent of households surveyed by the World Food Programme have reported resorting to rationing food, such as having one meal per day.

II. Major developments

3. Intensified fighting and numerous ground and air strikes resulted in the death of civilians, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation during the reporting period. That included the damaging of structures enjoying special protection under international humanitarian law, such as medical units. The people of the Syrian Arab Republic continue to suffer the most egregious abuse: they are assaulted; deprived of food, water and medicines in horrific conditions of uncertain survival; and all too frequently killed. Insecurity and ongoing violence remained a major factor limiting the ability of United Nations agencies and their partners to deliver much-needed humanitarian assistance, and in one instance resulted in the deaths of humanitarian workers and related staff. Heavy fighting continued across the country, including in Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama, Idlib, Rif Dimashq and other governorates.

4. In eastern Aleppo, where some 275,000 people have been trapped since July, efforts to ease the suffering of the population were ultimately unsuccessful. On 9 September, following months of negotiations, the United States of America and the Russian Federation reached an agreement that would restore the cessation of hostilities, facilitate humanitarian access and establish closer military cooperation between the two countries. The renewed cessation of hostilities came into effect on 12 September and for several days significantly reduced violence. On 19 September, however, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic declared an end to the cessation of hostilities, citing violations by non-State armed opposition groups, and on 22 September announced a major offensive against eastern Aleppo. The offensive killed more than 300 people, including 100 children, in the first week. During that same time, more than 80 people, including 32 children, were reportedly killed in western Aleppo.

5. On 19 September, a United Nations and Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy delivering humanitarian assistance for 78,000 in Urum al-Kubra (west of Aleppo) came under sustained attack. Over the course of two hours, 18 people (12 volunteers, 5 drivers and the head of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in Urum al-Kubra) lost their lives. Another 15 drivers were wounded, and civilians were killed and injured. The warehouse, where supplies were unloaded, as well as a nearby clinic run by the Red Crescent, were also severely damaged. No party has taken responsibility for the attack. On 30 September, the Secretary-General announced the establishment of an internal United Nations board of inquiry, whose task will be to ascertain the facts of the incident.

6. Following the local agreement reached in Darayya on 24 August and the evacuation of its population on 26 and 27 August, on 2 September an additional

350 civilians from Darayya, but living in neighbouring Mu'addamiyah, were evacuated to Hirjillah under the auspices of the agreement. Starting on 1 September, 93 predominantly elderly internally displaced persons hosted in Hirjillah were permitted to leave the shelter, and are now living with their relatives or acquaintances. The number of residents in Hirjillah now stands at 750 people.

Box 2
Food security

(1) An estimated 6.7 million Syrians are experiencing food insecurity, meaning that they do not have reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food, according to food security partners. Another 2.2 million Syrians are at risk.

(2) Owing to the lack of food, nearly 80 per cent of households surveyed by the World Food Programme (WFP) reported resorting to strategies to ration food, such as having one meal per day. Particularly for internally displaced persons and returnee households, WFP estimates that 85 per cent resort to such alternative strategies to meet their food needs.

(3) Factors such as besiegement, access constraints, high food prices and lower crop production have increased food insecurity among Syrians. The wheat harvest has been steadily declining since the beginning of the crisis, and in 2016 it is estimated to be less than half (45 per cent) of the 2015 harvest. Similarly, livestock numbers have decreased substantially since the beginning of the crisis, with up to 40 per cent fewer cattle, sheep and goats and half the poultry available inside the country. In August 2016, the national average cost of a standard food basket (a package of essential food commodities) was $64, an increase of nearly 16 per cent compared with January 2016.

(4) Every month, food security partners reach, on average, nearly 6.0 million people with food baskets (including 1.5 million from cross-border convoys) and more than 2 million people with wheat and flour/bread assistance through distributing food directly to households or supporting bakeries. More than 3,000 trucks delivering food assistance are on the country's roads every month. That has amounted to nearly 40,000 tons of wheat flour over the past eight months alone (averaging 5,000 tons a month). The major operational challenges are access constraints, insecurity on roads and resources. Despite those challenges, humanitarian organizations reach on average 90 per cent of targeted internally displaced persons, vulnerable host populations and Palestine refugees.

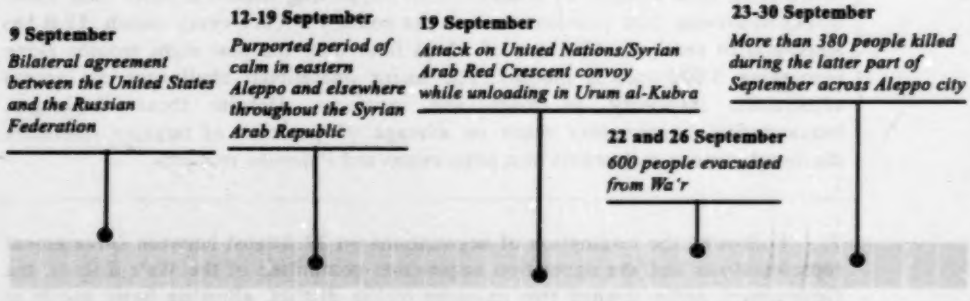
7. Following the resumption of negotiations on 29 August between Government representatives and the opposition negotiation committee of the Wa'r district, the Government partly opened two passages to the district, allowing basic goods to enter and allowing the limited movement of civilians, as well as allowing public employees in the service sector regular access into Wa'r. On 19 September, the Government released 197 detainees from Wa'r. On two occasions, on 22 and 26 September, a total of 600 people, including members of non-State armed opposition groups and their families, relocated from Wa'r to northern rural Homs. The evacuation occurred without any United Nations involvement and was based on an agreement between the Government and the negotiation team of Wa'r.

8. Following further fighting in the Hama countryside, the number of families registered as displaced with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has risen from 11,530 to approximately 14,371 families (71,855 people) in September. An additional 4,746 families (23,730 people) were also displaced to Hama city and are registered with a local non-governmental organization, bringing the total number of displaced to approximately 19,117 families (95,585 people).

9. On 28 September a girls' school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in the Khan Eshieh Palestine refugee camp took a direct hit that resulted in one student being injured, as well as two teachers, one of whom was seriously wounded. Khan Eshieh has experienced intensified armed conflict since 17 May 2016, resulting in an increasing number of casualties, including Palestine refugees and other civilians, with at least 20 Palestine refugee civilians killed and many more injured. Moreover, in late September, it was reported that the UNRWA Al-Jarmaq School in Yarmuk had been seized by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and that the premises were being used to deliver education by armed actors. UNRWA is unable to either confirm or deny those reports. UNRWA has not been in a position to operate any of its 29 schools, including the Al-Jarmaq School in Yarmuk, since December 2012.

10. The conclusion of the bilateral agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation on 9 September, and the ensuing reduction in violence for a brief period, underscored the potential and the importance of meaningful international cooperation to curb the violence, facilitate humanitarian access and support the efforts of the United Nations to bring about a resumed political process. However, intensive contacts between the Co-Chairs, two Ministerial meetings of the International Syria Support Group and a Ministerial meeting of the Security Council, all during the week of the high-level segment of the General Assembly, did not result in concrete gains on the ground. Key dates in September 2016 are set out in figure I.

Figure I
Key dates in September 2016


9 September
Bilateral agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation
12-19 September
Purported period of calm in eastern Aleppo and elsewhere throughout the Syrian Arab Republic
19 September
Attack on United Nations/Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy while unloading in Urum al-Kubra
22 and 26 September
600 people evacuated from Wa'r
23-30 September
More than 380 people killed during the latter part of September across Aleppo city

Protection issues

11. The protection of civilians has been consistently identified as a significant area of concern in all governorates across the Syrian Arab Republic. Indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, such as schools and markets, but particularly against medical personnel and facilities, continued. Threats from

explosive ordnance and threats against women or the most vulnerable civilians, such as children, the elderly or the disabled, as well as other human rights abuses, continued throughout the reporting period.

12. According to information received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the killing of civilians and other abuses and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law remained high in September. Much of the violence occurred in Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Idlib and Rif Dimashq governorates (see table 1 for a list of OHCHR-recorded attacks against civilians). OHCHR documented attacks by all parties to the conflict, including government forces, non-State armed opposition groups and designated terrorist groups. On 22 September, Syrian authorities sent a note verbale to OHCHR providing information on the reported deaths of more than 67 persons and the injury of more than 101 as a result of strikes reportedly launched by armed opposition groups between 5 and 19 September in the governorates of Aleppo, Damascus, rural Damascus, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama, Hasakah, Homs and Qunaytirah.

Table 1
Reported attacks against civilians in September 2016[a]

Date	*Location*	*Type of attack*	*Number of people killed, including women and children*	*Number of people injured*	*Infrastructure or site type*
Aleppo governorate					
4 September	Zahra'	Ground-based strike	10, including 2 women	–	–
6 September	Sakhur (eastern Aleppo)	Bomb (allegedly toxic)	–	More than 70	Residential
18 September	Sakhur (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	1	8, including 5 children	Residential
19 September	Urum al-Kubra (western Aleppo)	To be confirmed	18	To be confirmed	Aid convoy
23 September	Various districts (eastern Aleppo)	Air strikes	More than 50	–	Residential
24 September	Tariq al-Bab (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	5	–	Residential
24 September	Mashad (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	7, including 5 children	–	Residential
24 September	Bustan al-Qasr (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	5, including a child	–	Residential
24 September	Firdaws (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	18	–	Residential
25 September	Sakhur (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	6	–	–

Date	*Location*	*Type of attack*	*Number of people killed, including women and children*	*Number of people injured*	*Infrastructure or site type*
25 September	Salah al-Din (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	6, including a child	–	Residential
25 September	Bustan al-Qasr (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	13	150	Residential
28 September	Sakhur (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	2	–	Hospital
25 September	Ma'adi (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	6	–	Commercial (bakery)
Damascus governorate					
13 September	Masakin Barzah (Damascus)	Ground-based strike	1 child	–	Residential
17 September	Qabun (Damascus)	Ground-based strike	–	3	Residential
Dar'a governorate					
11 September	Harrah	Ground-based strike	2 children	1	–
18 September	Da'il	Air strike	10, including a child	At least 25	–
Dayr al-Zawr governorate					
1 September	Muhaymidah	Air strikes	10, including 4 women and 3 children	–	–
2 September	Tayyani	Air strike	5, including 3 women and a child	12	Residential
6 September	Qusur and Jurah (Dayr al-Zawr city)	Ground-based strike	4	3	–
10 September	Qusur and Jurah (Dayr al-Zawr city)	Ground-based strike	5 civilians, including a woman and a child	–	–
14 September	Qusur and Jurah (Dayr al-Zawr city)	Ground-based strike	3, including a woman	At least 2	Residential

Date	*Location*	*Type of attack*	*Number of people killed, including women and children*	*Number of people injured*	*Infrastructure or site type*
15 September	Mayadin	Air strike	At least 23, including a woman and 9 children	10	–
19 September	Mayadin	Air strike	At least 5, including a child	15	Residential
19 September	Tibni	Air strike	6, including 2 women and 2 children	–	Residential
23 September	Muhsin	Air strike	4, including 2 children	–	Residential
Tartous governorate					
5 September	Various	Bombs (including vehicle-borne and suicide bomber improvised explosive devices)	At least 43	Dozens	Various
Idlib governorate					
12 September	Ma'arratmisrin	Air strikes	At least 13	–	Residential and commercial
Rif Dimashq governorate					
2 September	Duma	Air strikes	A woman and a child		
12 September	Duma	Ground-based strike		At least 13	
16 September	Afrah and Dayr Muqrin	Ground-based strike	1	–	Residential
25 September	Khan al-Shih	Air strikes	At least 4	At least 5	Residential
				2	Vehicle
				–	Farm

Source: OHCHR.

[a] In line with resolution 2258 (2015), the present description of developments on the ground relates to the compliance with resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic. The information is provided without prejudice to the work of the Task Force on the Cessefire of the International Syria Support Group. The list is not exhaustive.

13. While not providing information for the full month, the United States Department of Defense confirmed that in September the United States-led coalition carried out at least 265 strikes against ISIL targets in the governorates of Aleppo, Raqqah, Hasakah, Dayr al-Zawr and Homs. On 17 September, the United States-led anti-ISIL coalition launched air strikes which killed and injured dozens of Government troops in Dayr al-Zawr. The strikes were rapidly acknowledged by the United States as an error and an investigation was launched. The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation did not provide OHCHR with any detailed information on operations carried out by its armed forces during the month.

14. Primary, secondary and tertiary health-care services continued to experience severe gaps in performance and service delivery, owing to the extensive damage caused to health facilities, the rapid turnover of health staff and the lack of qualified professionals in different medical specialties. Paediatric and maternal health services, including routine vaccinations, remained negatively affected, in particular in the governorates of Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Qunaytirah.

15. In blatant disregard for the protected status of medical facilities under international humanitarian law, which was further articulated by the Security Council in its resolution 2286 (2016), such facilities continued to be damaged or destroyed as a result of fighting. The United Nations and health partners received credible reports, some of which are in the process of being verified by the United Nations and partner organizations, of 30 attacks against medical facilities in September. Nine of the confirmed attacks were on hospitals (four in Aleppo governorate, three in Idlib governorate, one in Hama and one in Qunaytirah). In addition, a primary health-care centre in Urum al-Kubra (Aleppo) and a medical clinic were hit. A local non-governmental organization clinic was hit in southern rural Aleppo, resulting in the death of at least five staff members. As a result, all of the facilities were reportedly closed and services were disrupted. Moreover, in late September, heavy bombing in Aleppo destroyed numerous other civilian infrastructures, including three of the four White Helmet centres in eastern Aleppo.

Humanitarian access

Box 3
Key points

(1) Seven inter-agency convoys reached 249,000 people in need in six besieged locations and one hard-to-reach area. All of those operations took place between 19 and 25 September.

(2) The number of people besieged in the Syrian Arab Republic has grown from 586,200 to 861,200, following the announcement on 29 September that eastern Aleppo had met all three criteria used to define an area as besieged: military encirclement, lack of humanitarian access and lack of free movement for civilians.

(3) A total of 27,758 medical items were removed from convoys in September and 77,645 medical treatments were destroyed as a result of the attack on the aid convoy on 19 September (Urum al-Kubra).

(4) The October inter-agency convoy plan was submitted on 19 September. It seeks to reach 962,800 people in need across 29 besieged, hard-to-reach and priority cross-line areas throughout the month of October.

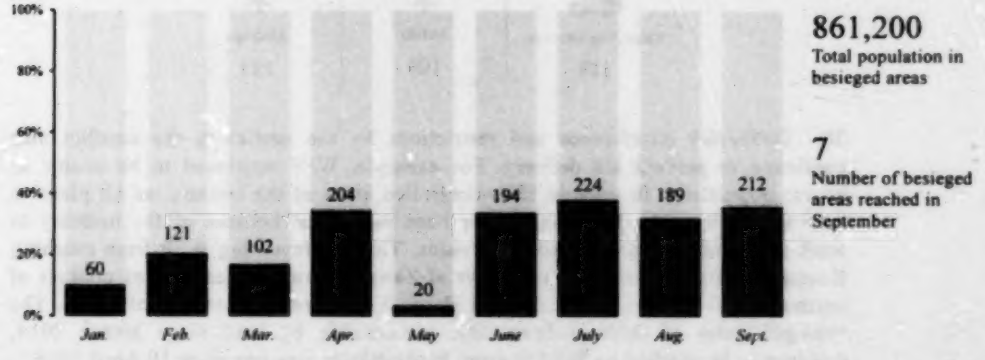
16. The delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need of assistance in the Syrian Arab Republic remained extremely challenging in many areas of the country as a result of active conflict, shifting conflict lines and deliberate restrictions by the parties to the conflict on the movement of people and goods.

17. In September, the overall number of people living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas stood at 5.47 million. However, the number of people besieged in the country has grown from 586,200 to 861,200, including the population of eastern Aleppo, where an estimated 275,000 people reside.

18. Access to the millions of people living in besieged and hard-to-reach locations remained of critical concern. Throughout the month of September, seven inter-agency convoys reached a total of 249,000 people in seven besieged and hard-to-reach locations (see figure II). That total constitutes 25 per cent of the roughly 980,000 beneficiaries approved under the September plan, and about 21 per cent of the 1,190,500 people to whom access had been requested under the plan (see para. 22 for an overview of the September plan). In addition to the United Nations providing assistance to those areas (see table 2), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) continued to provide limited medical, education and protection services, as well as some support in other sectors, in hard-to-reach locations, under extremely challenging circumstances.

Figure II

United Nations inter-agency cross-line operations: number of people reached each month in besieged areas



19. Active conflict in several governorates hindered the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as people's access to essential services. Markets, schools, medical and other civilian infrastructures were damaged as a result of fighting in September, reducing the availability of basic and essential services in critical areas. For example, access to water in Aleppo continues to be used as a

weapon of war. On 30 September, the water supply from the Sulayman al-Halabi pumping station serving both eastern and western Aleppo was cut. As a result, approximately 1.7 million people were left with no access to running water through the public networks. In addition, the Bab al-Nayrab water pumping station was damaged, cutting off water supplies for 275,000 people in eastern Aleppo. Moreover, as children returned to school across the country on 18 September, reports from eastern Aleppo indicated that many schools had yet to re-open as a result of the ongoing insecurity. In addition, UNRWA again was not able to access Yalda in September because of ongoing security concerns. The previous UNRWA mission to that area was on 25 May 2016.

Table 2
United Nations inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations (from 1 January to 30 September 2016)

1,275,750 people reached		
People reached in hard-to-reach areas 817 100	People reached in besieged areas 401 650	People reached in priority cross-line areas 57 000
16.7% People reached in hard-to-reach areas	46.6% People reached in besieged areas	17 Besieged locations reached
Cross-line convoys 119	Airlifts 104	Airdrops 131

20. Deliberate interference and restrictions by the parties to the conflict also continued to prevent aid delivery. For example, WFP continued to be unable to access populations in need in ISIL-controlled areas of the country, as all plans to deliver assistance to those areas have been suspended because of the inability to work independently and monitor activities. That is preventing WFP from reaching Raqqah governorate and most of Dayr al-Zawr governorate, as well as pockets of northern rural Aleppo, southern rural Hasakah and north-western rural Hama. The besieged parts of Dayr al-Zawr city, inaccessible by land since March 2014, continue to be reached by WFP through high-altitude airdrops since 10 April 2016.

21. The removal of life-saving medicines and medical supplies from humanitarian aid convoys continued during the month of September. Serum drugs, renewable items (razors, scalpel blades, gauzes) and surgical equipment (forceps, scissors, needles) were consistently removed from reproductive health and midwifery kits,

inter-agency emergency health kits, paediatric kits and diarrhoeal disease sets. The treatments and supplies removed from convoys during September are shown in table 3.

Table 3
Medical supplies removed from convoys in September 2016

Location	*Number of treatments*	*Type of supplies*
Talbisah	2 550	Burn kits, major and minor surgical sets, steam sterilizer, antiseptics, atropine and diazepam
Mu'addamiyah al-Sham	20 276	Burn kits, pneumonia kits A and B, inter-agency emergency health kit basic/supplementary units, intravenous fluids, antihistamines, cough suppressants, antihypertension medication, oxygen concentrators, monitoring devices, sterilizers, X-ray machines and spectrophotometers
Zabadani	998	Atropine, antihistamines, antibiotics, medical consumables, psychotropic medicines, diuretics and anaesthetic medications
Madaya	2 096	Atropine, antihistamines, antibiotics, medical consumables, psychotropic medicines, diuretics and anaesthetic medications
Fu'ah and Kafraya	1 035	Atropine, antihistamines, antibiotics, medical consumables, psychotropic medicines, diuretics and anaesthetic medications
Wa'r	803	Minor and major surgical sets, medical consumables and lifesaving medicines removed from inter-agency emergency health kit basic/supplementary units, pneumonia kits B, anaesthetic medications
Urum al-Kubra	77 645	A total of 77,645 medical treatments were destroyed as a result of the attack on the Urum al-Kubra convoy on 19 September

22. The United Nations inter-agency convoy plan for September requested access to 33 locations, including all besieged locations, aiming to reach 1,190,500 people. In its response, due on 30 August in accordance with the agreement to respond within seven working days, but received on 6 September, the Syrian authorities approved access to 979,450 of those 1,190,500 people (82.3 per cent). A total of 211,100 beneficiaries (17.7 per cent) requested under the plan were denied or not included in the approved number of beneficiaries. The Syrian authorities also requested that nine other locations be reached in September outside the plan.

23. On 19 September, the United Nations submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the October inter-agency convoy plan, which comprised 22 requests to reach 962,800 people in need across 29 besieged, hard-to-reach and priority cross-line areas. A response from the Ministry was expected around 29 or 30 September, in accordance with the agreed review process, but was not received until 7 October.

24. The Nusaybin/Qamishli crossing in Hasakah governorate has been temporarily closed by the Turkish authorities because of security concerns since 27 December

2015. Hasakah governorate also remains largely inaccessible by road for United Nations agencies from within the Syrian Arab Republic. On 9 July, the United Nations commenced airlifts from Damascus to Qamishli airport, benefiting more than 175,000 people with multisectoral assistance.

Humanitarian response

25. In September, United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need through all modalities from within the Syrian Arab Republic and across borders (see table 4). NGOs also continued to deliver assistance to people in need in line with previous months. The Government continued to provide basic services to areas under its control as well as in many areas beyond its control.

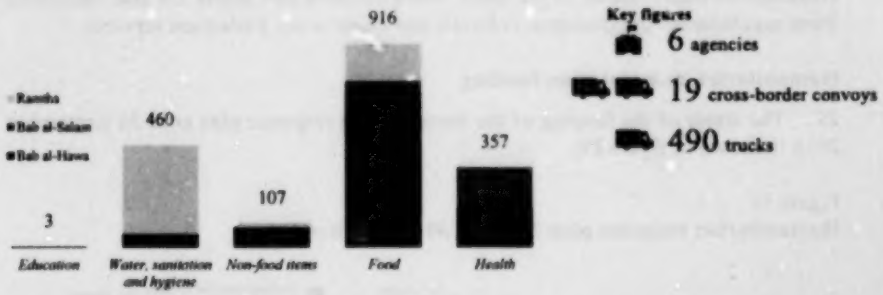
Table 4
Number of people reached by United Nations organizations, September 2016

Organization	*Number of people reached*
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	59 814
International Organization for Migration	38 700
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	518 000
United Nations Children's Fund	2 200 000
United Nations Development Programme	1 381 010
United Nations Population Fund	207 101
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	450 000
World Food Programme	4 100 000
World Health Organization	525 748

26. During the reporting period, cross-border deliveries continued from Turkey and Jordan into the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015) (see figure III for details). In line with the Security Council resolutions, the United Nations notified the Syrian authorities in advance of each shipment, including content, destination and number of beneficiaries. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations, monitoring 490 trucks used in 19 convoys in September, confirming the humanitarian nature of each, and notifying the Syrian authorities after each shipment. The Mechanism continued to benefit from excellent cooperation with the Governments of Jordan and Turkey.

Figure III
Number of beneficiaries assisted by the United Nations and its partners per cluster through cross-border deliveries, September 2016

(Thousands)



27. The inter-agency convoys to the besieged and hard-to-reach locations listed in table 5 were completed in September. Moreover, since 10 April, the United Nations has completed 131 airdrops of food commodities and humanitarian assistance over Dayr al-Zawr city. In addition, the WFP Logistics Cluster continued airlifts to Qamishli from Damascus. Over a hundred airlift rotations have been completed since 9 July. During the reporting period, United Nations agencies also undertook single-agency deliveries to cross-line and hard-to-reach locations or reached those locations through their regular programmes.

Table 5
Inter-agency convoys, September 2016

Date	*Location*	*Requested target (number of beneficiaries)*	*Targeted people reached*	*Type of assistance*
19 September	Talbisah	84 000	84 000	Multisectoral
22 September	Mu'addamiyah	45 000	35 000	Multisectoral
24 September	Wa'r	75 000	70 000	Multisectoral
25 September	Madaya and Zabadani	43 700	40 000	Multisectoral
25 September	Fu'ah and Kafraya	20 000	20 000	Multisectoral

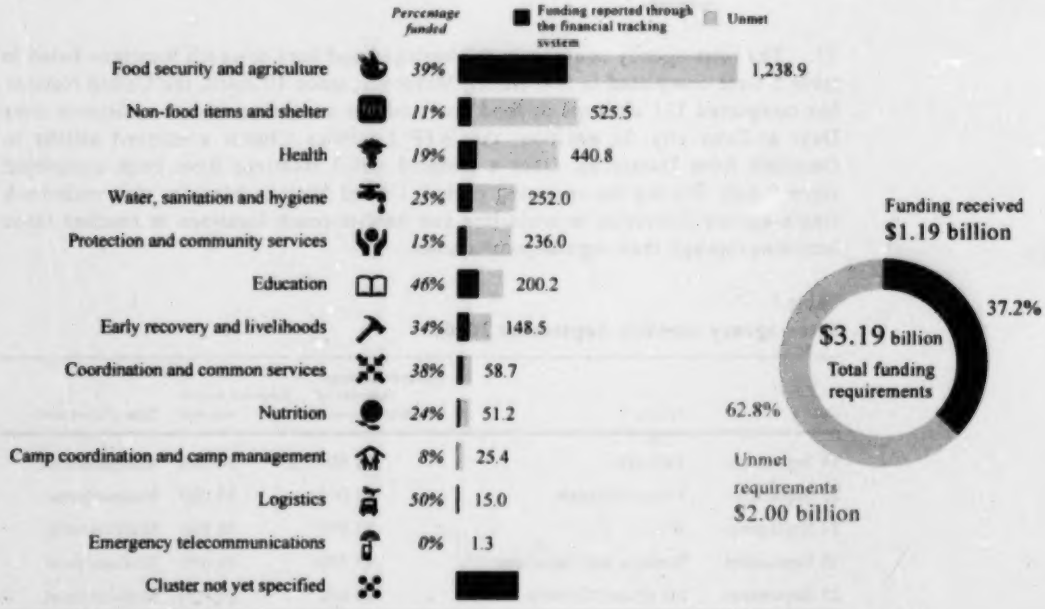
28. The World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued with the implementation of the nationwide vaccination campaign. The second round of the multi-antigen campaign was launched on 24 July 2016, targeting 713,543 children under 5 years old in hard-to-reach and besieged areas in 12 governorates. The campaign was then extended to reach additional areas, with a total of 157,568 children reached during that second round. Moreover, through cross-border assistance, between 19 and 29 September, over 30,000 children under the age of 5 (83 per cent of the target) were reached with immunization services, including oral polio vaccine, inactivated polio vaccine and pentavalent vaccine in three areas in northern Homs (Talbisah, Rastan and Hulah in

Taldu). That came as part of a campaign targeting children who had not been reached by the second round of the nationwide multi-antigen campaign as a result of the ongoing conflict. The cross-border part of the nationwide campaign aims to reach 1.2 million children in Idleb, rural Aleppo and eastern Aleppo city, rural Hama and northern Homs. So far a total of 438,225 children have been vaccinated through cross-border interventions in the areas where children and adults are also benefiting from psychosocial programmes, referrals and community protection services.

Humanitarian response plan funding

29. The status of the funding of the humanitarian response plan as at 30 September 2016 is shown in figure IV.

Figure IV
Humanitarian response plan funding, 30 September 2016



Visas and registrations

30. A total of 39 new visa requests were submitted in September. Thirty-four requests were approved, comprising 17 submitted in September and 17 older applications, while 41 remain pending. One visa request, which had been submitted in August, was rejected in September. A total of 52 visa renewal requests were submitted during the month. Forty-four applications were approved, while 3 visa renewal requests were rejected in September and 34 remain pending.

31. A total of 17 international NGOs are registered with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to operate in the country. Four more international NGOs are

in the process of completing registration. Those organizations continued to face a series of administrative hurdles and restrictions that affect their ability to operate, including in gaining permission to undertake independent needs assessments. Some 177 national NGOs are authorized to operate in the Syrian Arab Republic. Five additional national NGOs were added in September.

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises

32. In addition to the deadly attack on Urum al-Kubra, a number of attacks occurred that put the lives of humanitarian personnel at risk. An inter-agency convoy to Rastan was aborted by the United Nations at the final checkpoint of the Syrian authorities owing to air strikes in the area; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) closed a facility in the area around Qudsaya owing to insecurity; an improvised explosive device was detonated 200 metres from the UNHCR office in Qamishli; and a number of mortar attacks were reported in the vicinity of the United Nations hubs and headquarters in Damascus and Aleppo.

33. A total of 27 United Nations staff members (25 from UNRWA, 1 from the United Nations Development Programme and 1 from UNICEF) are still detained or missing. Since the start of the conflict, dozens of humanitarian workers have been killed, including 18 staff members of the United Nations, 54 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and 8 staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. In addition, many staff members of international and national NGOs are reported to have been killed.

III. Observations

34. During more than half a decade of brutal conflict, the people of the Syrian Arab Republic have faced an onslaught of unspeakable violence. Tragically, in the month since the previous report, heinous attacks and atrocities against civilians have only increased around the country. Bombs and mortars have been raining down on schools, medical facilities, public markets and humanitarian aid convoys. Nowhere has the fighting been more intense in the past weeks than in besieged eastern Aleppo, where an estimated 275,000 people have nowhere to hide. They are being subjected to deprivation, disease and death in increasing numbers and with increasing ferocity. Water stations have been bombed, schools hit and all of the hospitals in eastern Aleppo struck at least twice, indicating the deliberate nature of some of those attacks. The senseless killing in recent weeks of hundreds of children and other civilians is a tragic reminder that the conflict is destroying an entire country and robbing it of its future.

35. This is a race to the bottom, and we are at a turning point. The scale of the tragedy in Aleppo is already massive and will only get worse if military activities continue at the current rate. The international community cannot fail Aleppo as it did Srebrenica and Rwanda. We cannot allow an entire section of a city populated by hundreds of thousands and celebrated in the history of civilizations to be obliterated before the end of the year. Parties to the conflict must lay down their arms. I urge the parties to immediately halt all military operations across the entire city of Aleppo. I urge the Syrian and Russian military forces to immediately put an

end to all aerial bombardments. Guns must fall silent. Civilians must be protected and the cessation of hostilities must be restored in all of the Syrian Arab Republic. As I informed the Security Council on 28 September, the situation in Aleppo has deteriorated beyond our ability to imagine. It is worse than a slaughterhouse.

36. Recent attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, including on a United Nations-Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy in Urum al-Kubra on 19 September, are absolutely and utterly unacceptable. There simply can be no explanation or excuse, no reason or rationale for waging war on civilians, on doctors, on children, on teachers, on humanitarian workers trying to reach those in desperate need of assistance. For the world not to pursue the perpetrators of such brutality would be a grave abdication of duty. It would deny Syrians justice and healing. It would shred the credibility of an international community that claims to be concerned about upholding our common humanity. As I have made clear in recent statements, I am gravely concerned that some of these acts of brutality are war crimes. I am therefore, once again, urging the Security Council to refer the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic to the International Criminal Court.

37. On 21 September, I asked my Special Envoy for Syria to present a framework of proposals to the sides as a starting point for negotiations in resumed talks, as requested by the co-Chairs of the International Syria Support Group. My Special Envoy has stated his readiness to deliver the framework, but in order to create a favourable environment for a political track it is important that the cessation of hostilities be relaunched without delay and its implementation ensured. I am expecting the international community to develop a common course of action to enforce a cessation of hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic. The United Nations has continued its contacts with the Syrian sides and the co-Chairs and all members of the International Syria Support Group, and with a wide range of Syrian stakeholders, as it continues to call on all parties to do their utmost to ensure that political negotiations can commence in an environment conducive to a positive outcome.

38. Despite the enormous dangers in the Syrian Arab Republic, and despite attacks such as those witnessed on 19 September, the United Nations and its partners continue to provide lifesaving assistance. Each month, humanitarians deliver food to an average of 6 million people. Since the beginning of 2016, nearly 1.3 million people have been reached in besieged, hard-to-reach and priority locations through inter-agency cross-line operations. The deliveries are vital. They provide a lifeline to people largely trapped beyond our reach. They are, however, nowhere near sufficient to address the needs of all those in need of humanitarian assistance. It has been especially frustrating to see these last weeks and months pass without access improving, and delays in cross-line deployments are becoming commonplace. I therefore repeat my call to all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, to immediately lift any and all administrative restrictions and bureaucratic obstacles, and to facilitate unimpeded, sustained and safe humanitarian access to all Syrians in need. We are moving beyond the point where the lifting of sieges, for which I have so often called, would be enough to save those whose lives are being destroyed by this conflict. There must be an end, immediately, to the violence. Every day that fighting continues more civilians will die, and the country will be further decimated.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 41
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 19 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government, I transmit herewith two documents detailing the infringements of international air traffic regulations and the violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey (see annex I) and the illegal use of closed ports by Turkish warships (see annex II) recorded during the month of September 2016. It should also be noted that Turkish commercial aircraft systematically use the illegal Tympou airport.

Furthermore, I wish to inform you that the occupation regime illegally issued a notice to airmen on 27 September relating to exercises organized by the Turkish Air Force.

The actions of Turkey clearly aim at undermining the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, bolstering the continuing de facto division and upgrading the secessionist entity's status, by claiming a purported airspace over the occupied territory of the Republic. In addition, Turkey continues to systematically harass civilian and military aircraft within the Nicosia flight information region via radio calls. Meanwhile, infringements of regulations in the Nicosia flight information region and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus continue unabated. The policy of Turkey of persistently breaching international law and defying international rules and regulations puts the safety of international civil aviation at risk, has a negative impact on the stability of the region and causes difficulties for air traffic over Cyprus.

It should further be underlined that the continuation of the illegal actions of Turkey creates tension during a critical period for the successful outcome of the ongoing negotiation process for a peaceful comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem.

On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest the continuing infringements of international air traffic regulations and the violations of the national airspace and the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey and appeal for their

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immediate cessation. The Republic of Cyprus reiterates, in this respect, its call for adherence to the principle of sovereignty and non-interference enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**

Annex I to the letter dated 19 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Airborne violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
6 September	0947-1125	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia air control centre (ACC).
	2045-2246	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	2106-2235	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
7 September	1010-1406	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1100-1120	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1318-1530	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1453-1508	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
19 September	0933-1008	One S-70 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1504-1553	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
20 September	1041-1211	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1622-1650	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
21 September	1133-1152	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1355-1524	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1434-1601	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1529-1539	Two F-4 and two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1657-1714	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
22 September	1046-1255	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1429-1612	One Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
26 September	1044-1215	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
28 September	1036-1206	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Annex II to the letter dated 19 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Naval violations

Date	*Nature of violation*
23 August-2 September	One P-334 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
10-21 September	One P-331 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
22-23 September	One A-1600 Turkish vehicle carrier vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.
24 September	One P-338 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
25-27 September	One C-156 passenger vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.

United Nations S/2016/875

Security Council

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Letter dated 18 October 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and to Security Council resolution 2277 (2016), by which the Council renewed the mandate of MONUSCO until 31 March 2017.

As the Security Council is aware, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo requested MONUSCO on 16 August 2016 to extract former First Vice-President of South Sudan, Riek Machar, his wife and his son from a location inside the Garamba National Park (Haut-Uélé), where they were located after having crossed the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of South Sudan with several hundred armed personnel as well as some civilians. Further to the request of the Government, MONUSCO and the Government coordinated the extraction, on humanitarian grounds, of Mr. Machar, his wife and his son, as well as 10 other individuals, from the Garamba National Park. They were transported to Dungu (Haut-Uélé), where they received medical treatment. On 18 August 2016, Mr. Machar, his wife and six others were transferred to Doko (Bas-Uélé), where they were met by authorities from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The five remaining individuals, including Mr. Machar's son, were transferred to the MONUSCO base in Bunia (Ituri). On 22 August 2016, they were then transferred to Kinshasa, where they were met by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Government of the Republic of South Sudan was subsequently informed of the steps taken.

From 17 August to 12 September 2016, MONUSCO, in consultation with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, extracted 755 personnel of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A in Opposition) elements from the Garamba National Park, on lifesaving, humanitarian grounds. Of these 755 personnel, 117 were transported to Buta (Bas-Uélé) at the request of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they were met by representatives of the Government. On 19 September 2016, four additional individuals were extracted by park rangers of the Institut congolais pour la conservation de la nature and brought to MONUSCO in Dungu. In total, eight of those extracted by MONUSCO succumbed either to their injuries, malnutrition or ill health while in the Mission's medical facilities in Bunia and Goma. The 634 remaining personnel are currently in MONUSCO-run medical facilities or MONUSCO transit camps in Dungu and Munigi (Nord-Kivu), except for two who

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have been transferred to a non-MONUSCO hospital in Kinshasa to receive medical treatment. The group has voluntarily handed over to the Mission 134 weapons, which have been secured by MONUSCO.

Since 16 August 2016, when the Mission was first advised of the presence of SPLM/A in Opposition personnel in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO has been in regular contact with the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, keeping them informed and encouraging them to find a sustainable solution for these personnel. The United Nations Secretariat has been engaging with both the Permanent Missions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations, calling for an agreement on the repatriation of the South Sudanese nationals or their relocation to a third country in a manner consistent with international law.

With regard to the latter option, the Secretariat has, in parallel, requested the African Union Commission to help to identify a third country that could temporarily accommodate these elements, pending a political agreement in South Sudan that would allow their return to their country of origin. The Secretariat also brought the matter to the attention of former President Festus Mogae of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission of the South Sudan peace agreement, for the matter to be addressed with the parties in the negotiations on transitional security arrangements concerning the integration of forces, disarmament and demobilization of fighters in South Sudan. In addition, the Secretariat is in contact with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and with other regional partners, encouraging them to urgently identify temporary relocation options. The International Committee of the Red Cross, both in Kinshasa and in New York, has also been informed of the developments and encouraged to play a role in finding a solution.

In the margins of the General Assembly, the Secretariat engaged the Government delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on a possible mandate for MONUSCO to physically intern the SPLM/A in Opposition personnel for and on behalf of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as a short-term interim measure, until the Democratic Republic of the Congo would be in a position itself to carry out their physical internment. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo expressed the view that it was the responsibility of the United Nations, including MONUSCO, to repatriate as soon as possible the SPLM/A in Opposition personnel to South Sudan, with the necessary guarantees that the South Sudanese authorities would respect the rights of those elements.

On 3 October 2016, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo informed my Special Representative, in a note verbale dated 1 October 2016, of its decision to grant the SPLM/A in Opposition one week, starting on 3 October 2016, to leave the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while requesting the Mission to make all the necessary arrangements for its evacuation. A copy of the note verbale is attached.*

MONUSCO does not have the legal authority to expel the SPLM/A in Opposition elements from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At

* The note verbale was made available to the members of the Security Council only.

the same time, there is no basis for MONUSCO to continue providing humanitarian assistance to them, as they are no longer in a life-threatening situation — except for two persons. Moreover, there is no prospect of enrolling the SPLM/A in Opposition personnel in a disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement programme, since there is no guarantee that they will not return to South Sudan to resume fighting, if the opportunity arises, and, as matters stand, there is no clear legal basis in its mandate for MONUSCO to hold them against their will.

In these circumstances, MONUSCO has advised the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that it is no longer in a position to continue to take care of the SPLM/A in Opposition personnel. The Mission has recalled that it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the SPLM/A in Opposition personnel on its territory do not return to South Sudan to participate in the armed conflict in that country and that it is also its responsibility to ensure that the SPLM/A in Opposition personnel are not expelled, either directly or indirectly, to a country where they would be exposed to a real risk of summary execution, disappearance, torture or other serious violations of their human rights. In this regard, my Special Representative has conveyed to the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that MONUSCO remains at the disposal of the Government to provide any assistance within the limits of its mandate to ensure that the Government fulfils its international obligations.

Pursuant to resolution 2277 (2016), MONUSCO will dispose of the weapons that were handed over by the SPLM/A in Opposition personnel prior to their extraction from the Garamba National Park. The Mission has already exchanged relevant information with the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) and the Panel of Experts on South Sudan established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015).

The Secretariat is contacting partners who would be in a position to more effectively engage with relevant parties to encourage an agreement between the Transitional Government of National Unity in South Sudan and Mr. Machar in order to find a permanent solution to the future of the SPLM/A in Opposition personnel currently in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one that respects international law.

The region is also involved. On 11 October 2016, a group of experts from the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region visited Munigi on a fact-finding exercise. They met with the SPLM/A in Opposition members currently being accommodated by MONUSCO. The Mechanism experts informed the Mission that they would issue a report to the Heads of State of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, with recommendations on the nature of the regional response.

In view of the foregoing, MONUSCO is faced with a situation in which it is no longer in a position to accommodate or care for the SPLM/A in Opposition personnel, though no clear arrangements have yet been put in place, or are under consideration, which would ensure that they are handled in a manner that is consistent with international law. I am, accordingly, bringing the matter to the

attention of the Security Council in order that it might take such decisions or provide such guidance as it may deem appropriate.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon

United Nations S/2016/876

Security Council

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20 October 2016

Original: English

Identical letters dated 19 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey the following:

"The Syrian Government is sparing no effort to stabilize the situation in Aleppo. The Government has made arrangements for the transfer from Eastern Aleppo of civilians and the wounded and the exit of armed individuals with their individual weapons without any hindrance.

In order to improve the situation in the city, the Syrian Arab Army is implementing a cessation of hostilities for specific intervals. Vehicles are also in place to transport the wounded and civilians from conflict areas, and measures have been taken to deliver humanitarian aid.

Army units have temporarily retreated to locations allowing armed individuals to leave Eastern Aleppo through two specific corridors.

The Syrian Government continues to implement the pardon law promulgated by President Bashar Al-Assad. The law grants amnesty to individuals who have taken up or possessed arms for any reason and to outlaws and fugitives if they choose to surrender themselves and their weapons to competent judicial authorities and the prosecution office.

Given these circumstances, the Syrian Government calls on Western countries, some Arab and regional countries and all those interested in a stable Aleppo to take genuine political steps to that end, and avoid further political stalling."

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-18269 (E) 211016

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United Nations S/2016/877

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 October 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 20 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, containing resolution 8/43-POL, adopted by the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, on the situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir (see annex).

I would kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council, in connection with the item entitled "The India-Pakistan question".

(*Signed*) Maleeha **Lodhi**

16-18252 (E) 261016

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Annex to the letter dated 20 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release No. 535/2016

Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation adopts strongly worded resolution on the situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir, condemns India in strongest possible terms for their atrocities on Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Kashmir

Islamabad, 19 October 2016

The Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation met in Tashkent on 18 and 19 October 2016 for its forty-third session and adopted a very strongly worded resolution on the grave human rights situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir. While upholding Kashmiris' right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, they reaffirmed the unwavering support of Organization of Islamic Cooperation countries to the just cause of the Kashmiri people, expressed deep concern and condemned in the strongest possible terms the unabated killing of defenceless Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

The Foreign Ministers noted the demonstrations by unarmed Kashmiris, despite the curfew, in the wake of Burhan Wani's extrajudicial killing as a referendum against India. The Foreign Ministers condemned India for the illegal detention of Kashmiris, the incarceration of Hurriyat leaders in torturous conditions and the brutal killings of Kashmiris, including children. They also condemned the Handwara episode of forced detention and sexual assault of a minor girl by the Indian police.

The Foreign Ministers once again rejected Indian attempts to equate the freedom of movement of indigenous Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Kashmir with terrorism. They paid rich tribute to the Kashmiris for the heroic struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination. They also expressed deep concern at Indian attempts to bring demographic changes in Indian Occupied Kashmir by establishing colonies and through forced conversions and the permanent settlement of non-Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Kashmir. They rejected the sham elections conducted under duress as a substitute for the exercise of the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Foreign Ministers denounced India's refusal to allow access to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation fact-finding mission to Indian Occupied Kashmir and called for a free and impartial inquiry into the 6,000 unmarked mass graves in Indian Occupied Kashmir discovered in 2009 in order to bring the perpetrators of the genocide to justice. The complete text of the resolution, adopted at the forty-third session of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is as follows:

Resolution No. 8/43-POL on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, adopted at the forty-third session of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held in Tashkent on 18 and 19 October 2016 (17 and 18 Muharram A. H. 1438)

The forty-third session of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, under the theme "Education and enlightenment: path to peace and creativity", held in Tashkent on 17 and 18 Muharram A. H. 1438 (18 and 19 October 2016),

Reaffirming the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Charter of the United Nations regarding the sanctity of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, and recalling the numerous unimplemented Security Council resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which declare that the final disposition of the state of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people to join India or Pakistan expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations,

Recalling the Special Declarations on Jammu and Kashmir adopted by the seventh, tenth and eleventh sessions of the Islamic Summit Conference and the extraordinary sessions of the Islamic Summit, held in Casablanca, Morocco, in 1994 and Islamabad in 1997, and all previous resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and the joint communiqué, as well as the reports of the Ministerial and Summit Meetings of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, and endorsing the recommendations contained therein,

Reaffirming the unwavering support expressed for the Kashmiri people in their just cause in the joint communiqué of the Thirteenth Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

Stressing that Jammu and Kashmir is the core dispute between Pakistan and India and its resolution is indispensable for the realization of the dream for peace in South Asia,

Expressing deep concern at the alarming increase in the indiscriminate use of force and atrocious human rights violations committed by the security forces of India in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir,

Condemning in the strongest possible terms the unabated killing and brutality let loose in Indian Occupied Kashmir by the security forces of India in the aftermath of the killing of immensely popular armed resistance leader Burhan Wani, in which dozens of civilians were killed and hundreds injured for mourning and protesting at the death of their beloved leader and expressing shock at the deadly silence of world community at the mass killings,

Noting the hugely attended funeral procession of Burhan Wani and demonstrations despite curfew restrictions as referendum against India,

Condemning the illegal police detention of Handwara, a minor girl, for 27 days when, instead of initiating inquiry against Army officials accused of sexually molesting the girl, Indian authorities used all means to force the girl

into changing her statement and brutally killed five civilians for protesting for the release of the minor girl,

Further condemning the killing of Sheikh Tanveer Sultan, who was shot dead on 13 June 2016 by Indian police in a fake encounter while traveling in a passenger bus,

Expressing deep shock at the discovery of more than 6,000 unmarked mass graves in Indian Occupied Kashmir and the apathy of the Government of India, which is still unmoved by this great human tragedy,

Strongly condemning prolonged detentions of Kashmiri leaders by India and violations of freedom of movement and expression, and noting with concern that prolonged detentions are taking a heavy toll on the health of Kashmiri leaders,

Further condemning the widespread practice of the harassment of Kashmiri students in Indian institutions for showing support to Pakistan,

Rejecting the Indian attempts to malign the legitimate Kashmiri freedom struggle by denigrating it as terrorism, and expressing support to the widespread indigenous movement in Indian Occupied Kashmir for the realization of their right to self-determination,

Taking note of the huge gatherings at the funerals of armed fighters and the demonstrations in their favour as a manifestation of widespread public support for the armed struggle in Indian Occupied Kashmir,

Paying rich tribute to the valiant people of Indian Occupied Kashmir for waging a heroic struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination,

Rejecting the sham and farcical elections held in Indian Occupied Kashmir under the duress of 700,000 Indian security forces as a substitute for a free and impartial plebiscite held under the auspices of the United Nations, which were rejected by the Security Council in its resolutions 91 (1951) and 122 (1957),

Expressing deep concern at Indian attempts to bring demographic changes in Indian Occupied Kashmir and converting the Muslim majority of the State into the minority by settling non-Muslim non-State subjects like West Pakistan refugees and establishing Sainik colonies,

Denouncing Indian attempts to disturb the religious harmony of Indian Occupied Kashmir by establishing separate colonies for Pandits, who are always welcomed by Kashmiris to return to their ancestral lands,

Taking note of the memorandum presented by the true representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir,

Encouraging and expressing the hope that both Pakistan and India resume the dialogue process for peacefully resolving all their outstanding issues, particularly the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir,

Acknowledging that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are the principal party to the dispute and should be included in the Pakistan-India dialogue process,

Welcoming the establishment of a standing mechanism by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission for monitoring the human rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the adoption of its working modalities and operating methods during the sixth and eighth regular sessions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation-Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission in pursuance of resolutions 1/40-POL, 8/41-POL and 8/42-POL adopted by the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs at its fortieth, forty-first and forty-second sessions, respectively,

Regretting that India is not allowing the Organization of Islamic Cooperation fact-finding mission to visit Indian Occupied Kashmir nor has it responded favourably to the offers of a good offices mission by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

Taking note of the personal support of the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for the Kashmir cause and his efforts for the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute,

Expressing support for the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Jammu and Kashmir, who recently led a high-level Organization of Islamic Cooperation delegation on a successful visit to Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir,

1. *Calls upon* India to implement the numerous Security Council resolutions on Kashmir which declare that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people, to join India or Pakistan, expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations;

2. *Reminds* the international community of its obligations to ensure the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and fulfil the promises made by it with the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to break its deadly silence over continuous atrocious human rights violations against civilians in Indian Occupied Kashmir and take notice of excessive use of force against civilians in the aftermath of the killing of Burhan Wani, in which Indian forces fired at the protesters above the waist and implemented a policy of "shoot to kill" which resulted in dozens of deaths and many hundreds injured;

4. *Urges* India to stop forthwith the gross human rights violations in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and allow international human rights groups access to Indian Occupied Kashmir;

5. *Calls upon* India to respect the rights of freedom of movement and expression of Kashmiri leaders and release all political prisoners forthwith, particularly Syed Ali Shah Geelani, whose health has significantly deteriorated due to prolonged detention;

6. *Urges* India not to change the religious make-up of the State by settling non-State subjects in Indian Occupied Kashmir, to respect the internationally recognized disputed status of the State and not to bring any material changes there;

7. *Further urges* India not to implement the disturbing plans of religious harmony of Indian Occupied Kashmir by establishing separate colonies for Pandits;

8. *Calls upon* India to conduct free and impartial inquiry into the discovery of 6,000 unmarked mass graves and bring the perpetrators to justice;

9. *Affirms* that any political process/elections held under foreign occupation cannot be a substitute for the exercise of the right of self-determination by people of Jammu and Kashmir, as provided in the relevant Security Council resolutions and reaffirmed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of the General Assembly;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the recent efforts of the Governments of Pakistan and India to resume the dialogue process for the resolution of all outstanding issues, particularly the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir, and hopes that the dialogue process starts soon;

11. *Calls for* the expeditious implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation mission led by Amb. Abdullah Al-Alim, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, in May 2016;

12. *Appeals* to member States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other Islamic institutions, such as the Islamic Solidarity Fund, and philanthropists to mobilize funds and contribute generously towards providing humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people;

13. *Requests* the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to provide the financial resources necessary to provide vocational training and higher education to Kashmiri refugees, and entrusts the General Secretariat to submit appropriate proposals;

14. *Urges* the Government of India to allow the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation fact-finding mission to visit Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir for a neutral and impartial judgment of the human rights situation there;

15. *Recommends* that Member States continue to coordinate their positions in international forums, and mandates the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir to meet regularly;

16. *Welcomes* the important briefings provided by the Standing Mechanism on Indian Occupied Kashmir of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir during the Islamic Summit and the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the human rights violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir, requests it to

continue this useful practice, and also requests the Standing Mechanism to submit its regular reports on the human rights situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir to the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs at its subsequent sessions;

17. *Decides* to consider the Jammu and Kashmir dispute at the forty-fourth session of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next session of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs.